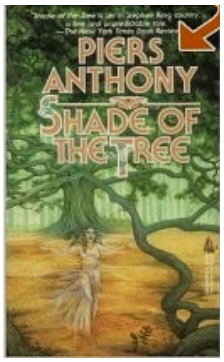
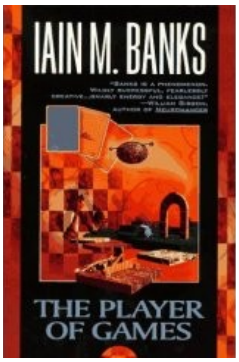
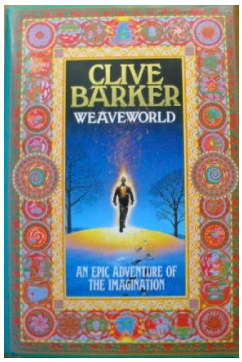
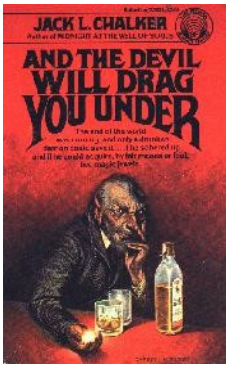
My Favorite Fiction Books:

Looking for a good read ? Here are some books I have enjoyed; you might like them too.









Anthony, Piers

Shade of the Tree (ISBN:0812531035)

Interesting story showing how one man stored his wealth in a roughly Alpha Strategy way. “The estate was Joshua Pinson's inheritance from his oddball uncle Elijah : isolated in the deep Florida woods, with a half-built solar house, and enough supplies to weather a siege. Did his uncle really die in an accident, or was it something else? What is the truth behind the rumors about ghosts, and what is the skunk ape?”

Banks, Iain M

Player Of Games: (ISBN:1857231465)

Great book set in a very advanced space-borne society, where most of the population lives on giant ships traveling through various types of sub-space. Autonomous robotic devices which use force-fields as manipulative limbs, computers with super-human intelligence, and humans with all kinds of biologically-engineered advantages, from super strength to drugs on demand from special glands. “Bored With Success, Gurgeh - The Player Of Games - Travels To The Empire Of Azad, Cruel And Incredibly Wealthy, To Try Their Fabulous Game. This Is A Game So Complex, So Like Life Itself, That The Winner Becomes Emperor.”

Barker, Clive

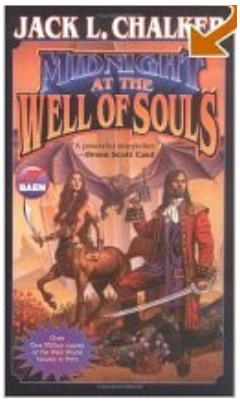
Weaveworld (ISBN:0006174892)

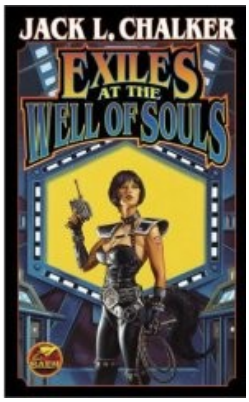
This book is about a carpet in which a world of rapture and enchantment is hiding. A magic carpet that has found its way to Liverpool, England, proves to be the portal into an alternate world; a world that comes back to life, alerting the dark forces from which it was hiding and beginning a desperate battle to preserve the last vestiges of magic which Humankind still has access to.

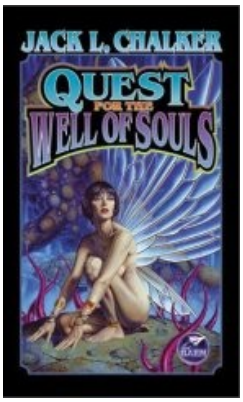
Chalker, Jack

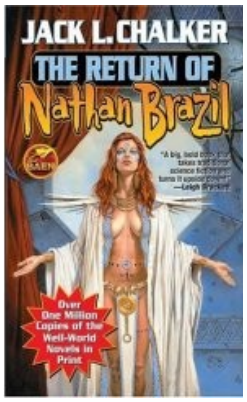
And The Devil Will Drag You Under (ISBN:0345279263)

The end of the world was coming, and only a drunken demon could save it.. if he sobered up and if he could acquire, but fair means or foul, five magic jewels.









Midnight at the Well of Souls (Book 1 in the Well of Souls series) (ISBN:0345324455)

Entered by a thousand unsuspected gateways -- built by a race lost in the clouds of time -- the planet its dwellers called the Well World turned beings of every kind into something else. There spacefarer Nathan Brazil found himself companioned by a batman, a centaur and a mermaid -- all once as human as he. Yet Nathan Brazil's metamorphosis was more terrifying than any of those..and his memory was coming back, bringing with it the secret of the Well World. For at the heart of the bizarre planet lay the goal of every being that had ever lived -- and Nathan Brazil and his comrades were..lucky?..enough to find it! (A stand-alone novel, but also the start of the first well world series.)

Exiles at the Well of Souls (ISBN:0345277015)

Book 2 in the Well of Souls series.

Quest For Well Of Souls (ISBN:0345277023)

Book 3 in the Well of Souls series.

The Return of Nathan Brazil

Book 4 in the Well of Souls series.

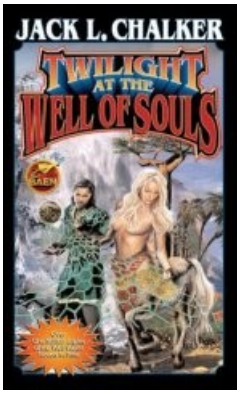
Twilight At The Well Of Souls

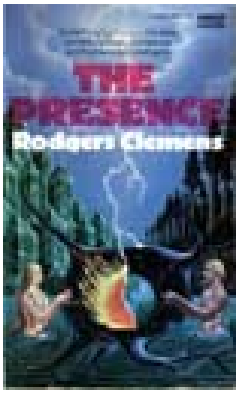
Book 5, and Conclusion of the first Well World series.

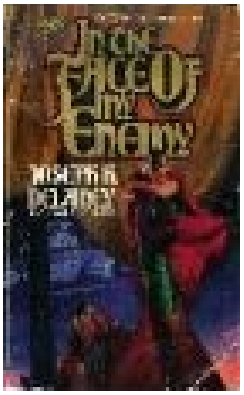
Clemens, Rodgers

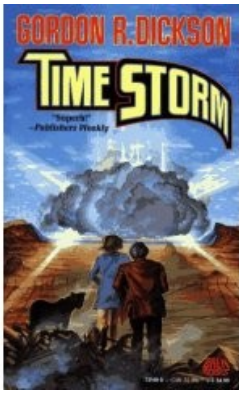
The Presence

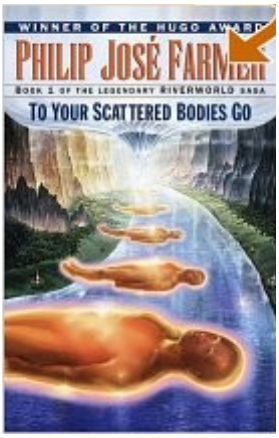
Good story about an amorphous creature, very similar to the one in Dean Koontz's Phantoms. "Something lay there in the lake. Something huge, murderous, and frighteningly intelligent."

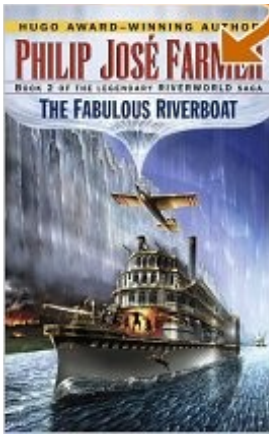


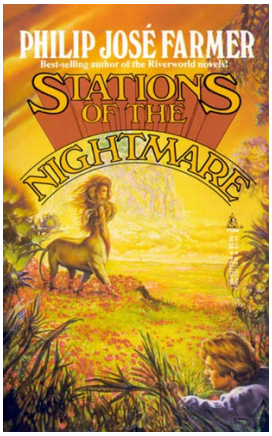


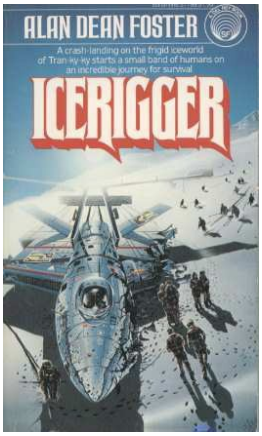












Delaney, Joseph H

In the Face of My Enemy (ISBN:0671559931)

Eighteen thousand years ago a man encountered god-like aliens. Afterward, he was not as other men. He could change his form at will, his wounds healed instantly, and he did not age. As millennia passed he grew very wise, and came at last to understand. His destiny lay not among men, but among the stars.

Dickson, Gordon R

Time Storm (ISBN:055312269X)

Time has gone mad, and lines of time change ravage the earth. Where they pass, water and earth are transformed into the past and future, wreaking havoc. Mankind is all but snuffed out. Only a handful of survivors remain. Can they find a way to stop the timelines?

Farmer, Philip Jose

To Your Scattered Bodies Go (ISBN:0425037444)

First in the Riverworld series. When famous adventurer Sir Richard Francis Burton dies, the last thing he expects to do is awaken naked on a foreign planet along the shores of a seemingly endless river. But that's where Burton and billions of other humans (plus a few nonhumans) find themselves as the epic Riverworld saga begins. It seems that all of Earthly humanity has been resurrected on the planet, but why? And by whom? That's what Burton and a handful of fellow adventurers are determined to discover as they construct a boat and set out in search of the river's source, thought to be millions of miles away. His mission: to confront humankind's mysterious benefactors, and learn the true purpose--innocent or evil--of the Riverworld.

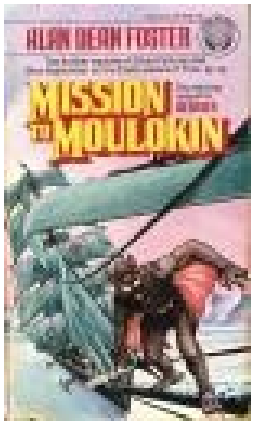
Stations of the Nightmare (ISBN:0523485220)

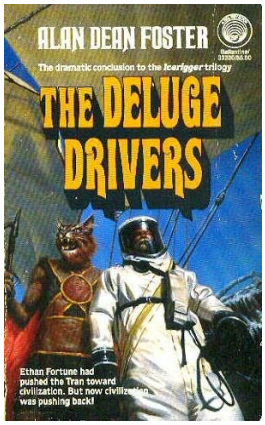
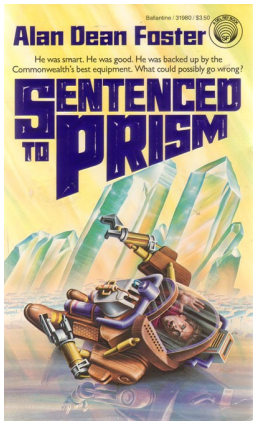
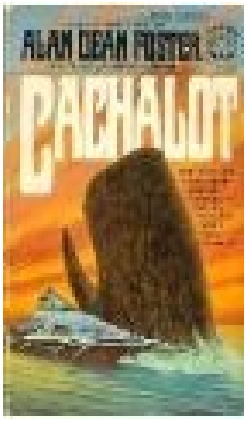
This is one of Phil's strangest books. It is a simple story of a man, Paul Eyre, who accidentally kills an alien, and through this becomes transformed.

Foster Allen Dean

Icerigger (ISBN:0345333950)

A crash landing on the frigid iceworld of Tran-ky-ky starts a small band of humans on an incredible journey for survival. The aliens are like cats on skates. (A personal favorite)




ALAN DEAN FOSTER
The dramatic conclusion to the Icerigger trilogy
THE DELUGE DRIVERS
Ethan Fortune had pushed the Tran toward civilization. But now civilization was pushing back!

Alan Dean Foster
He was smart. He was good. He was backed up by the Commonwealth's best equipment. What could possibly go wrong?
SENTENCED TO PRISM


Mission to Moulokin (ISBN:0345276760)
The further exploits of Ethan Fortune and Skua September on the frozen planet of Tran-ky-ky.

The Deluge Drivers (ISBN:0345333306)
It looked as if Ethan Fortune was stuck on the icy world of Tran-ky-ky, never to enjoy the warm comforts of civilization again. But then things began to heat up.

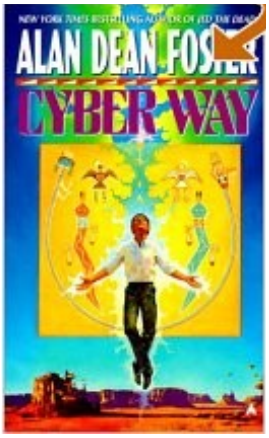
Sentenced to Prism (ISBN:034531980X)
He was smart. He was good. He was backed up by the Commonwealth's best equipment. What could go wrong?

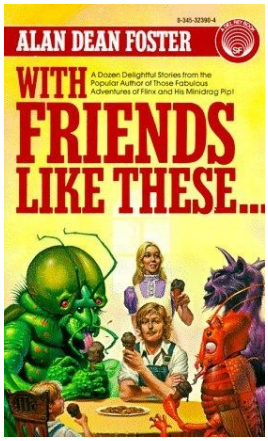
Cachalot (ISBN:0345280660)
At one time Humans had hunted the sea dwelling mammals to near extinction. When other worlds had been discovered they were given a planet of their own, Cachalot, to live on in peace. But they were not alone.

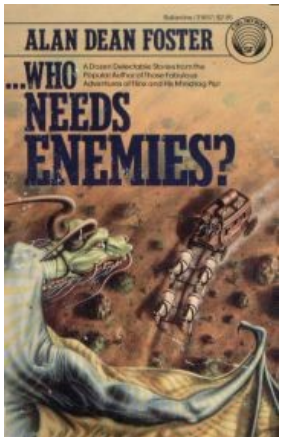
Cyber Way (ISBN:0441132456)
Someday science will abolish magic. But not murder. Computers will catch the killers. But not this time. One cop will unearth the truth. But it's not human.

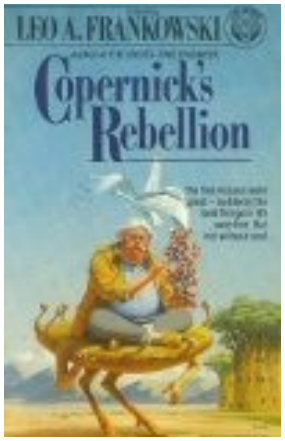
With Friends Like These... (ISBN:0345311892)
Collection of short stories.

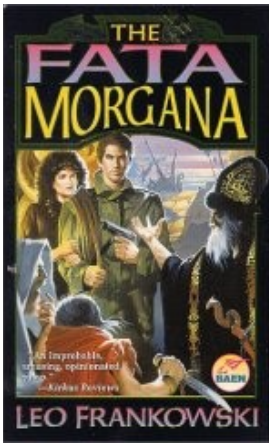
Who Needs Enemies (ISBN:0708881696)
Collection of short stories.

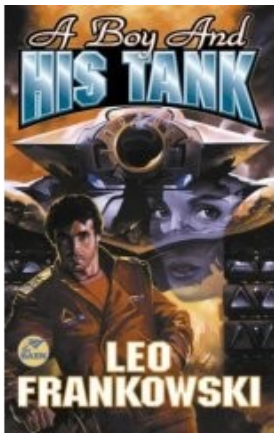


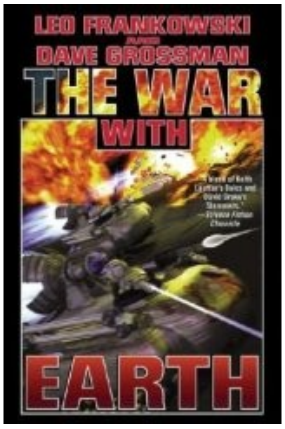


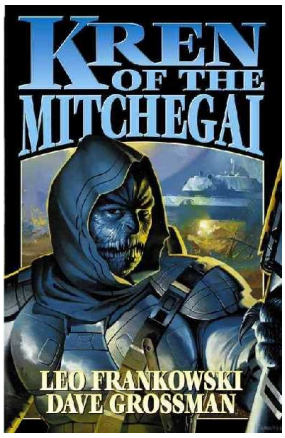












Frankowski, Leo

Copernick's Rebellion (ISBN:0345340337)

Heinrich Copernick and Martin Guibedo came to the States as penniless refugees after World War II. By 1999 they had made huge fortunes in the field of medical instrumentation. But Heiny and his Uncle Martin weren't just filthy rich, they were also the world's best gene engineers. And their latest inventions could free Humanity from want and oppressive governments forever. At least, that was the plan. Imagine: Free homes with all the furnishings and utilities! Free food! Even free babysitters! Heiny and Uncle Martin even thought they should give their inventions away. Free. That's when their troubles began. (A personal favorite)

The Fata Morgana (ISBN:0671578766)

The ancient tales of European Man, carefully recorded by pious monks and hedge wizards alike, are insistent about the Western Isles. One of the tales of Doubting Thomas, the apostle, has it that he Christianized these islands and stayed there until the end of his days. The Arthurian legends clearly state that Arthur's father, Uther, came from the Western Isles. This book is about two modern, hardheaded engineers who find the Western Islands.

A Boy and His Tank (ISBN:0671578502)

The planet New Kashubia started out as a gas giant, but when its sun went supernova, lighter elements were blasted into space. The New Kashubians lived inside the planet, in tunnels drilled in a thousand foot thick layer of solid gold. The Kashubians use virtual reality, to give their warriors a symbiotic relationship with their intelligent tanks.

The War With Earth: (ISBN:0743498771)

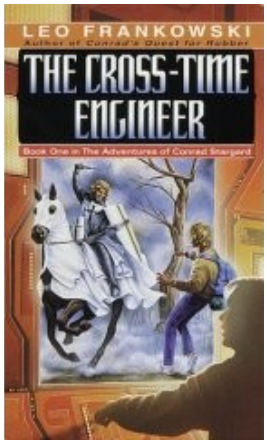
Second in the boy and his tank series.

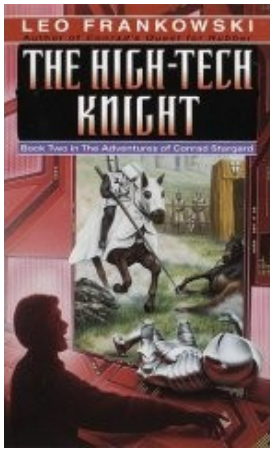
Kren of the Mitchegai (The Boy and His Tank Series.) (ISBN:0743471822)

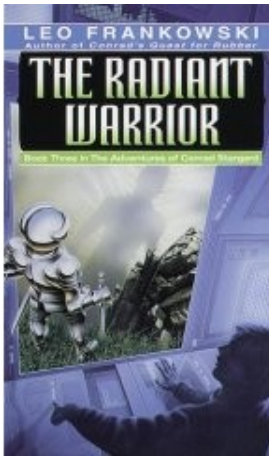
Third in the boy and his tank series.

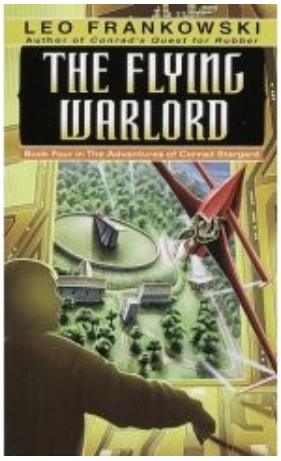
The Cross-Time Engineer - Book One in the Adventures of Conrad Stargard (ISBN:0345327624)

One moment Conrad Schwartz was a hung-over hiker in the mountains of modern day Poland and the next he is stranded in 1231 AD. Conrad has to turn medieval Poland into the most powerful country in the world otherwise the Mongols were destined to destroy it in ten years.









The High-Tech Knight (Series Adventures of Conrad Stargard 2.) (ISBN:0345327632)
Somehow, Conrad Stargard had been marooned in Poland, A.D. 1231. Somehow, Conrad found himself under investigation by the Inquisition, got himself knighted, was granted his own fief, and made a few enemies. Somehow, he had to round up a few vassals, build himself a city, and worry about the Mongols.

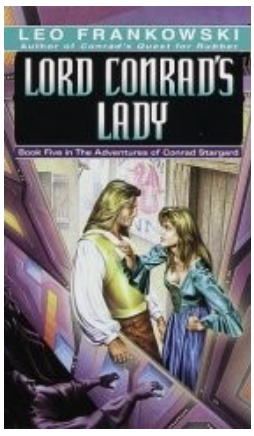
The Radiant Warrior (Series Adventures of Conrad Stargard--Three.) (ISBN:0345327640)
Conrad Stargard, a 20th-century Pole marooned in the 13th-century Poland, had just ten years to prevent the Mongol Hordes from slaughtering everyone in Poland. So he "invented" all the modern advances, things like prefabricated housing, playboy clubs, and the steam engine. But wars are fought by warriors, so he set out to create an army.

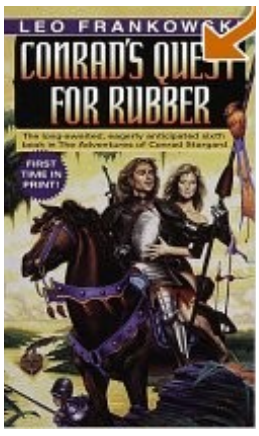
The Flying Warlord (Series Adventures of Conrad Stargard 4.) (ISBN:0345327659)
For a twentieth-century man, Conrad Stargard had done a lot in thirteenth-century Poland. In just nine years, he had "discovered" universal education, aircraft, radios, steamboats, and machine guns. He had prepared Poland to defeat the bloodthirsty Mongols, but now that the Mongol hordes had arrived, something was disturbing the flow of history.

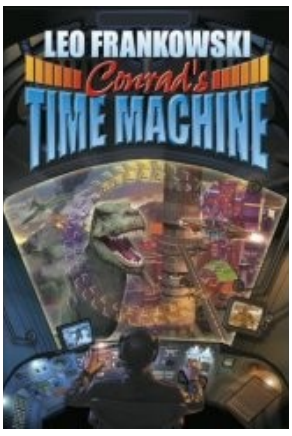
Lord Conrad's Lady (Book 5) (ISBN:0345368495)
The conclusion of the Mongol wars.

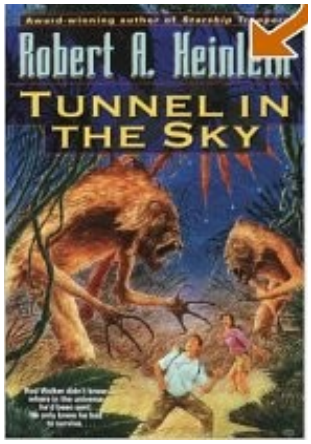
Conrad's Quest For Rubber (Book 6) (ISBN:0345368509)
After the Mongol wars in Poland, there are still other countries to save from the barbarians.

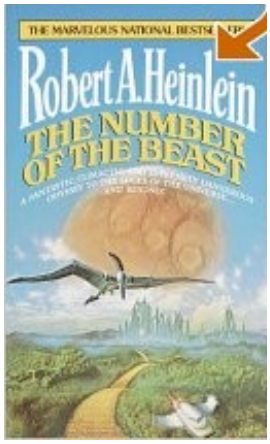
Conrad's Time Machine: A Prequel to the Adventures of Conrad Stargard (ISBN:0743435575)
How the whole time travel culture got started.

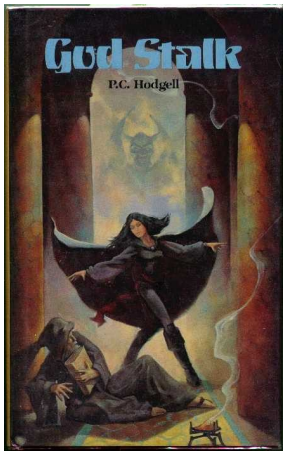


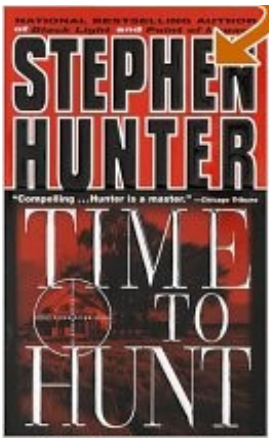












Heinlen, Robert

Tunnel in the Sky (ISBN:0345281950)

Set in a future where high-school students are trained in survival skills (to help them stay alive, as they colonize the newly-discovered planets). A class is gated to an uninhabited planet and dropped off on their own for their graduation test, not knowing where they are or what dangers they will face. "It was just a test . . . But something had gone wrong. Terribly wrong. What was to have been a standard ten-day survival test had suddenly become an indefinite life-or-death nightmare."

The Number Of The Beast (ISBN:0449144763)

When 4 geniuses suddenly find themselves the target of alien hostilities, they are forced to flee their universe in an aircar fitted with a device for shifting to alternate timelines. Follow them as they explore an endless number of alternates, and learn the surprising truth about the multiverse.

Hodgell, P. C.

God Stalk

This is the story of Jame. She is the member of a race that is manipulated as a weapon by a "Three-Faced God." She finds her way into a city full of strange gods on the one night of the year that all the dead gods come back to life, seeking live prey to feed upon.

Hunter, Stephen

Time to Hunt (ISBN:0440226457)

An excellent novel about a duel between two snipers. Gives a decent glimpse into the sniper mindset.

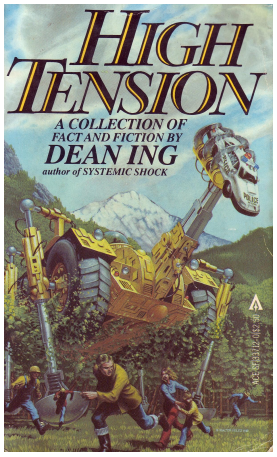
Ing, Dean

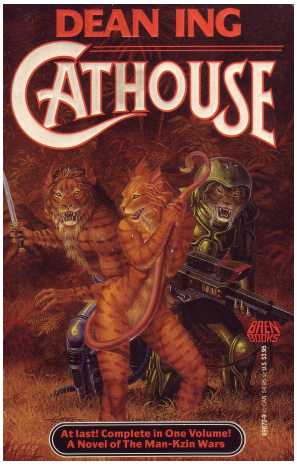
High Tension (ISBN:0441337120)

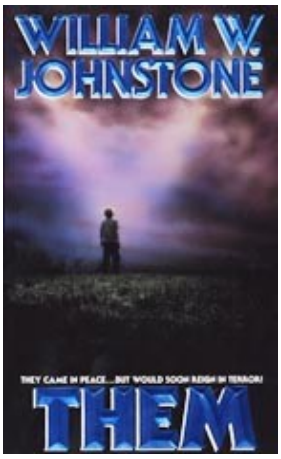
Collection of short stories.

Cat House

A Novel of the Man / Kzin Wars.







Jennings, Phillip C.

The Bug Life Chronicles (ISBN:067169801X)

Good collection of stories that explore the ability to scan a human's personality into a robotic device; some as small as bugs. All kinds of interesting scenarios.

Johnstone, William W.

Them (ISBN:0821739921)

Good book about a small town which is invaded by "Brains from Space".

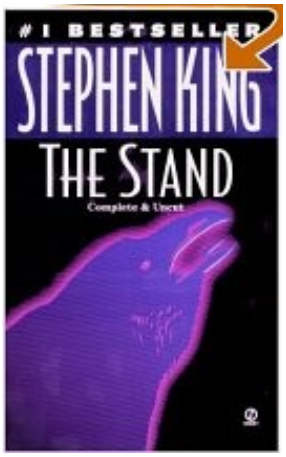
King, Stephen

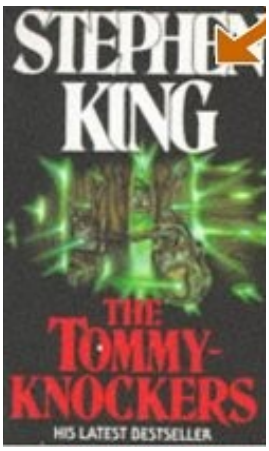
The Stand (ISBN:0451127897)

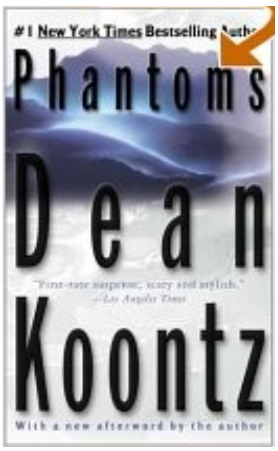
Great book which explores the idea of all those weapons left lying around after a major population die-off. If you never read books by King, this novel will make you a fan. This book is an end-of-the-world scenario: a rapidly mutating flu virus is accidentally released from a U.S. military facility and wipes out 99 and 44/100 percent of the world's population; then the survivors start having strange dreams.

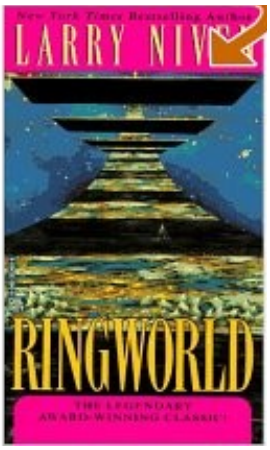
The Tommyknockers (ISBN:0451178424)

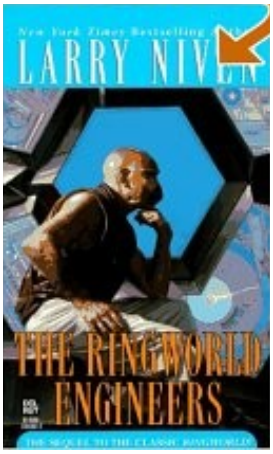
A woman trips over the edge of a buried spacecraft, then starts having ideas for new inventions.

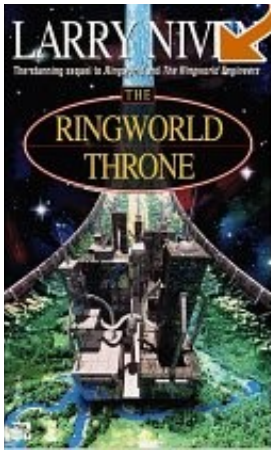


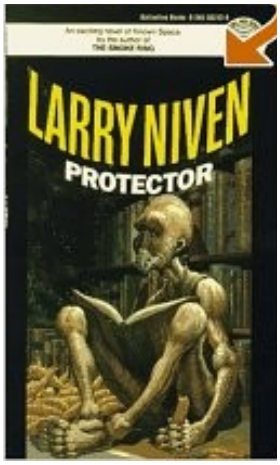












Koontz, Dean R.

Phantoms (ISBN:0425101452)
Great book about a strange and deadly creature which wipes out a small mountain town.

Martin, George R. R.

Tuf Voyaging (ISBN:1592220169)
Haviland Tuf is an honest space-trader who likes cats. So how is it that, in competition with the worst villains the universe has to offer, he's become the proud owner of the last seedship of Earth's legendary Ecological Engineering Corps? The most powerful weapon in human space, containing cellular material for thousands of creatures from earth, and every planet ever discovered. (A personal favorite)

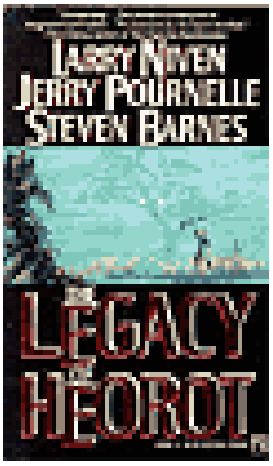
Niven, Larry

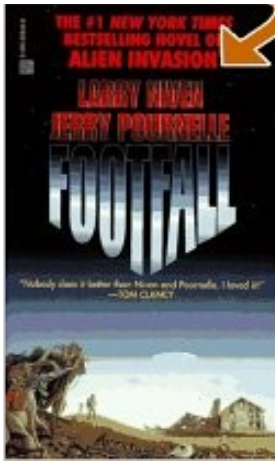
Ringworld (ISBN:0708883745)
Bigger than any planet, but smaller than a Dyson sphere, Ringworld is a vast artificial ring in deep space containing a sun at its center and uncounted humanoid civilizations spread across its inner surface. On this mind boggling artifact a human, a puppeteer and a Kzin try to find some answers to some very difficult questions. The sci-fi classic by Larry Niven, and start of a series; contains one of my favorite alien races, the Puppeteers, who are one of the most appealing non-human designs around.

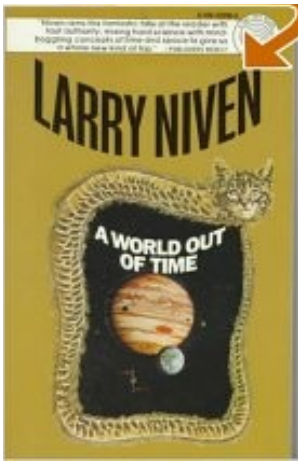
The Ringworld Engineers (ISBN:0345260090)
Sequel to Ringworld; reveals who built it.

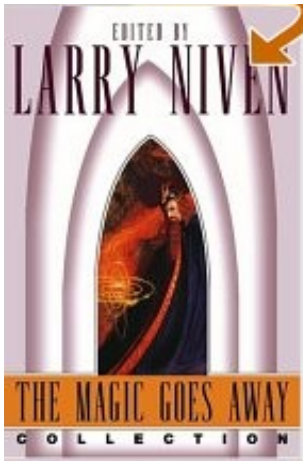
The Ringworld Throne
Conclusion of the Ringworld trilogy.

Protector (ISBN:0345247787)
Story about Pak Protectors, a fierce and super-intelligent race.









The Legacy of Heorot (ISBN:0671649280)

The colonists from Earth have spent a century in cold sleep to make the first journey, one way, to settle a planet in another solar system. Avalon seems perfect, a verdant, livable world still in its prehistoric age. The biologists and engineers who busy themselves planting and building scoff at the warnings of professional soldier Cadmann Weyland until a large, unnaturally fast and cunning predator begins stalking the colony. Learning how to kill the beast is only the first step, for they have awakened a terrible danger. The creatures are like Aliens on steroids.

Footfall (ISBN:0345323440)

The earth is invaded by aliens who look like baby elephants. The invaders blast a Soviet space station, seize the survivors, and destroy every dam and installation on Earth with a hail of asteroids, before dropping infantry all over earth.

A World Out of Time (ISBN:0345257502)

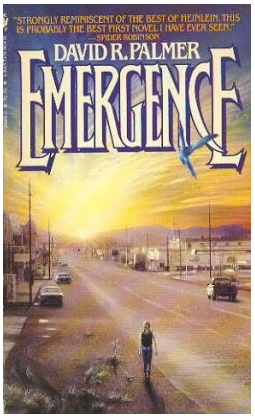
Corbell was dying of cancer when he had himself cryogenically frozen. He awakened in a future that considered him little more than a slave to be used for a manned space mission. But Corbell made a slight detour ..

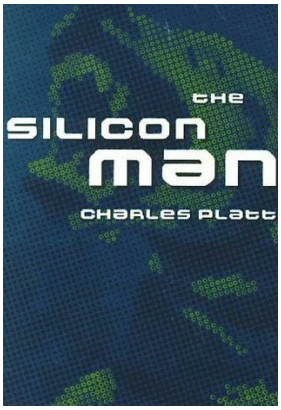
The Magic Goes Away (ISBN:0441515533)

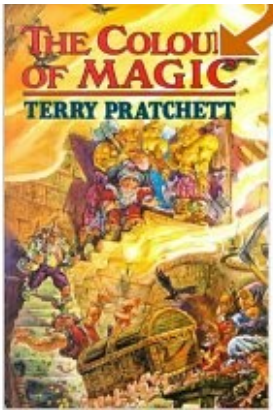
Once there was a magic in the world, but hordes of selfish, short-sighted magicians have used up the mana, and the magic goes away. Even the most powerful spells are fast becoming futile, and so Orolandes, sad Achaean with half a sword, goes on a quest in search of the lost power.

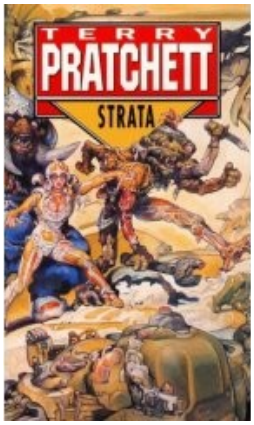
Inferno (ISBN:0671497669)

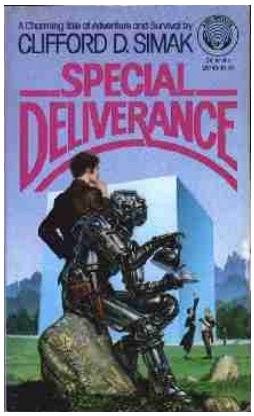
Modernized version of Dante's Inferno. Neat novel about a science fiction author who dies at a SF convention and goes to Hell.

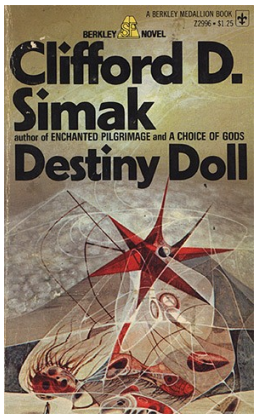











A BERKLEY MEDALLION BOOK
BERKLEY SF NOVEL
Clifford D. Simak
author of ENCHANTED PILGRIMAGE and A CHOICE OF GODS
Destiny Doll

Palmer, David R.

Emergence (ISBN:0553245015)

Candy Smith-Foster, a survivor of a bionuclear war that destroyed most of humanity, searches across America seeking others of her kind.

Platt, Charles

The Silicon Man (ISBN:1888869143)

An FBI agent stumbles upon a group of scientists working on a project which has succeeded beyond their wildest dreams. The scientists have to get rid of the agent, but they can't quite bring themselves to kill him, so they scan his mind into a virtual reality network. But can he stop their plan without a body, and does he want to?

Pratchett, Terry

The Color of Magic (ISBN:0061020710)

Funny parody of all wizard and magic stories. In this first Discworld novel, Pratchett invents a universe in which a blissfully naive tourist joins up with a drop-out wizard whose spells only seem to work half of the time. Together they undertake a chaotic voyage through a crazy world filled with monsters and dragons, heroes and knaves.

Strata (ISBN:0552133256)

Story about a flat earth with an interesting mix of technology and magic. “Dragons, demons, Vikings, robots, and countless other perils await anyone who crash-lands on a world that contradicts the known laws of the universe.”

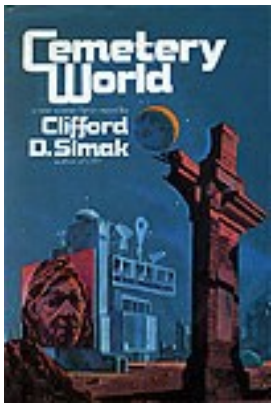
Simak, Clifford D

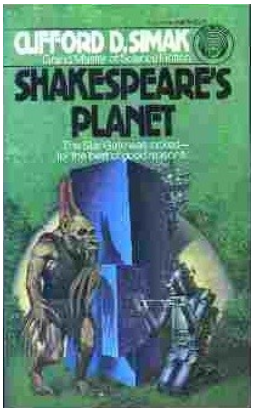
Special Deliverance (ISBN:0345291409)

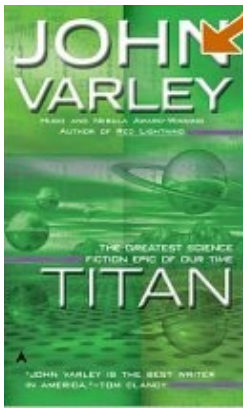
Kidnapped from earth and dropped onto a strange world, unwilling adventurers are led to an immense, featureless blue cube, and into an ancient and mysterious city.

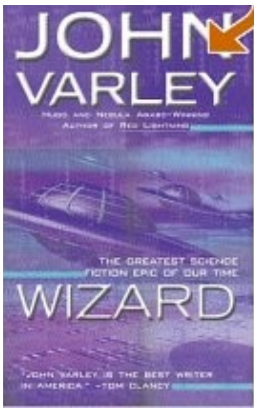
Destiny Doll (ISBN:0879977728)

Classic space opera with some very unusual characters. An explorer and his companions try to solve the mystery of giant trees on a planet full of deadly traps, while searching for a lost legend.









Cemetery World (ISBN:0399110712)
All of old earth is a cemetery, but the dead are restless. A man and his robot companions find the secrets of this world.

Shakespeare's Planet (ISBN:0399117296)
Trapped on a planet with one-way teleportation gates, a man and robot deal with a strange creature named carnivore.

Varley, John

Titan (ISBN:0425049981)
Her ship engulfed by a moon-sized being, can Cirocco Jones and her crew survive inside Gaea, with centaurs, angels, and living blimps?

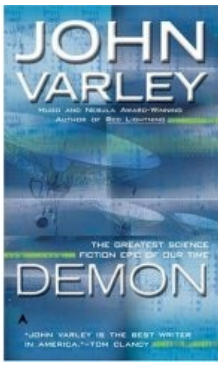
Wizard (ISBN:0425048284)
Book 2 in the Gaean trilogy. A conflict develops between Cirocco Jones and the being that is Gaea.

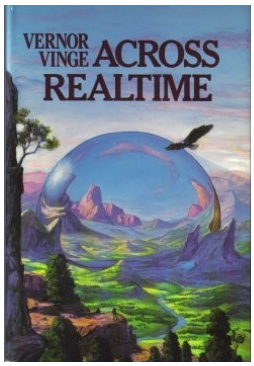
Demon (ISBN:0425082717)
Book 3 in the Gaean trilogy. Cirocco Jones and Gaea fight to the death, but how do you kill a being the size of a moon, without killing all the races of creatures living inside it?

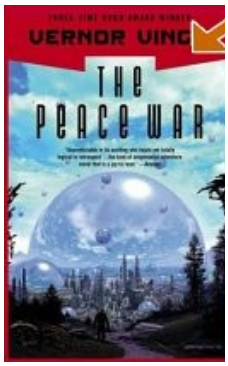
Vinge, Vernor

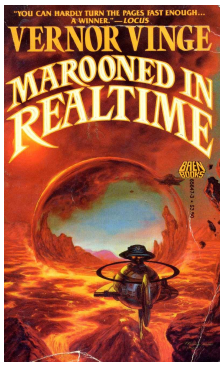
Across Realtime : The Peace War & Marooned in Realtime in one volume.

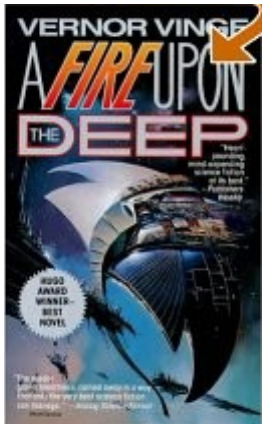
The Peace War
Great novel, set fifty years after the "Peace Authority" took control of governments worldwide with a radically different weapon, the bobbler, which encased its targets in an impenetrable force field, rendering resistance useless.

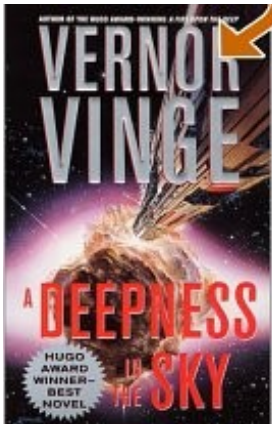


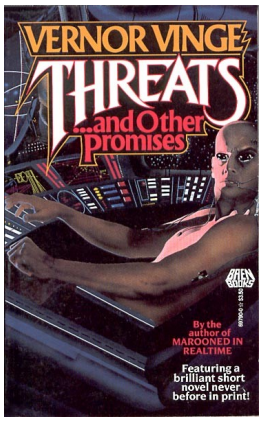











VERNOR VINGE
THREATS
...and Other Promises
By the author of MAROONED IN REALTIME
Featuring a brilliant short novel never before in print!

Marooned In Realtime

One of my favorite books ever; great illustration of the progress of technology. Characters have massive wealth, including armies of robotic servants, direct mental links with each other and their autonomous robotic craft, personal space travel, privately-owned nukes, and one-way time travel. Brilliant sequel to the best selling, Hugo award winning "The Peace War". In this drama, set 50 million years in the future, High-Techs search for and gather the remnants of human life, time travelers stranded in the future, where the bulk of humanity has vanished.

A Fire Upon the Deep (ISBN:0812515285)

An awesome space saga! Across the depths of space, alien civilizations are threatened by the malevolent Blight. The only key to stopping it may be on a tiny ship trapped on an uncivilized planet ruled by group-intelligent dogs.

A Deepness in the Sky (ISBN:0812536355)

Not a sequel, but set in the same region of space, 30,000 years earlier than Vinge`s Hugo Award-winning A FIRE UPON THE DEEP. After thousands of years searching, humans stand on the verge of first contact with an alien race.

True Names... and Other Dangers (ISBN:0671653636)

Collection of stories.

Threats, And Other Promises (ISBN:0671697900)

Collection of stories.

Watt-Evans, Lawrence

With a Single Spell (ISBN:0345326164)

An untrained wizard’s apprentice winds up on a dragon-hunting expedition, but is he toast?

The Misenchanted Sword (ISBN:0345318226)

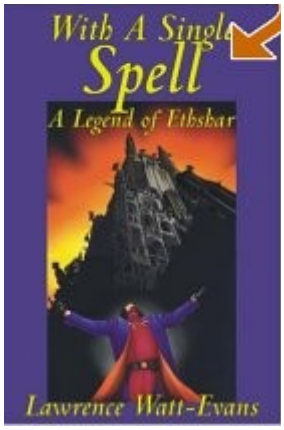
Can a soldier survive accidental immortality?

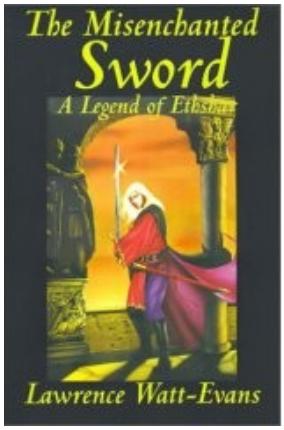
The Unwilling Warlord (ISBN:0345354133)

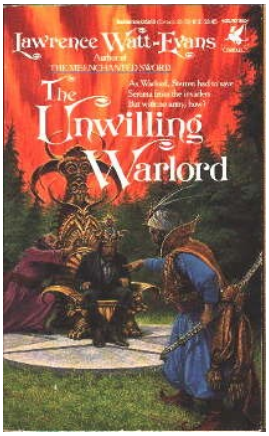
Forced into fighting a war in a strange land, a man is doomed to lose and be executed – or is he?

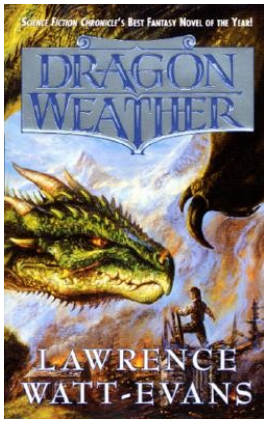
Dragon Weather (ISBN:0812589556)

The best explanation yet of how dragons reproduce.









Wilson, F. Paul

Healer (ISBN:0440135699)
A man winds up with a second mind and the ability to heal himself, but can he heal others?

Zelazny, Roger

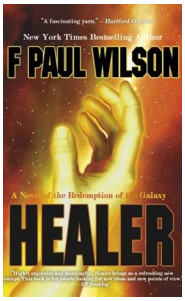
Nine Princes in Amber
Awakening in an Earth hospital unable to remember who he is or where he came from, Corwin learns that he has the ability to travel between an infinite number of parallel worlds, which stretch from Amber, the one real world, to Chaos. But who are his brothers, and why are they willing to kill him? Start of a great series, and there is also a second series, about the main character's son.

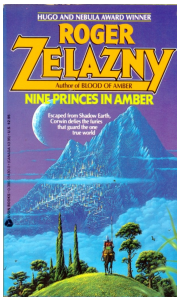
The Guns of Avalon (ISBN:0380000830)
Book 2 in the Amber series

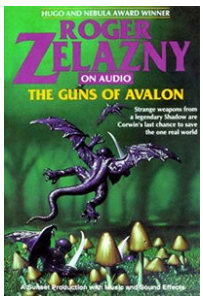
Sign of the Unicorn (ISBN:0380008319)
Book 3 in the Amber series.

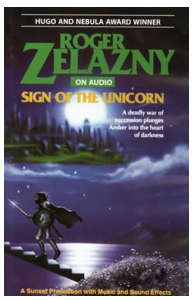
The Hand of Oberon (ISBN:0380016648)
Book 4 in the Amber series.

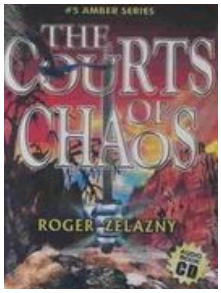
The Courts of Chaos (ISBN:0380471752)
Conclusion of the first Amber series.











Survival – Related Fiction: (Useful for mental conditioning, and to nudge your clueless friends.)

Patriots: Surviving the Coming Collapse Rawles, James Wesley (ISBN:156384155X)

Survival Info Disguised as a Novel. A fast-paced novel that follows a group of survivalists through a stock market crash, an economic collapse, and a second civil war. This novel doesn't just tell readers what could happen in the near future, it explains exactly how to prepare for it.

Pulling Through Ing, Dean (ISBN:0441690505)

This book combines a short novel of post-nuclear survival with articles and information intended to give the reader "a head start on pulling through" in the event of a real nuclear war. Written as an excellent science fiction novel about survival following a nuclear attack, with a large nonfiction section.

Malevil Merle, Robert (ISBN:0446796859)

In an isolated French Chateau, a group of friends have gathered. While they taste wine in the deep cellar, a nuclear explosion incinerates the earth. Follow these loving, hating, hoping, fearing human beings as they try to build a new and better world. Unrealistic description of nuclear weapon effects, but good entertaining survival story.

Lucifer's Hammer Niven, Larry; Pournelle, Jerry

The gigantic comet had slammed into Earth. It was the beginning of a new Ice Age and the end of civilization. But for the terrified men and women fate had saved, it was also the dawn of a new struggle for survival--a struggle more dangerous and challenging than any had ever known.

Alas, Babylon Frank, Pat

Florida gets nuked. Good illustration of how paper money becomes worthless, and of how people can continue to produce wealth with the right knowledge base.

Out of the Ashes Johnstone, William W (ISBN:0821711377)

Good story about a big population die-off. This one will help you to envision just how ugly and chaotic a big disruption of society will be. Also the start of a long series.

Final Blackout Hubbard, L. Ron (ISBN:0884046516)

World War III is grinding to a halt. In the heart of France, a Lieutenant is torn between abiding by military codes, and doing what he knows is right for his country. Good illustration of the difference one person can make, even in a seemingly impossible situation.

Note: William W Johnstone, author of the "Ashes" series, has also written a number of books with other themes.

These include adventure novels about military veterans, westerns, and what I would describe as "survival horror" stories. These last are not for the squeamish, as they contain graphic descriptions of evil, but if you are like me, you may enjoy watching the characters fighting against evil. They usually deal with a small, isolated town which comes under siege by evil creatures, such as vampires, or werewolves, or demons and devil worshippers; then we watch as the townsfolk try to stay alive. Found in the horror section, the titles include: Baby Grand, Bats, Breakdown, Carnival, Cat's Eye, Cat's Cradle, A Crying Shame, Darkly the Thunder, The Devil's Cat, The Devil's Heart, The Devil's Kiss, The Devil's Laughter, The Devil's Touch, Hunted, Initiation, Jack in the Box, Night Mask, Nursery, Ordeal, Prey, Rockabilly Limbo, Rockabilly Hell, Rockinghorse, Sandman, Sweet Dreams, Them, Toy Cemetery, Uninvited, Watchers in the Woods, and Wolfsbane. Like any other survival fiction, these are good for mental conditioning.